



ABSOLUTE POWER TIE-IN

BATMAN

ABSOLUTE POWER
CORRUPTS...
ABSOLUTELY!



ZDARSKY
HAWTHORNE
DI BENEDETTO
FAJARDO JR.

ALSO FEATURING
THE BIRDS
OF PREY
THOMPSON • DE IULIS

13+
TEEN

LAST STAND ON PARADISE ISLAND!

**JON KENT FIGHTS BACK AS
ABSOLUTE
POWER
CONTINUES**

**SEPTEMBER:
ABSOLUTE POWER #3**

**ABSOLUTE POWER:
TASK FORCE VII #6**

**ABSOLUTE POWER:
SUPER SON #1**

**ABSOLUTE POWER:
TASK FORCE VII #7**

**ABSOLUTE POWER:
ORIGINS #3**

**TIE-INS:
BATMAN #152**

GREEN LANTERN #15

SUPERMAN #18

WONDER WOMAN #13

GREEN ARROW #16



DON'T MISS THE FATEFUL FINALE IN OCTOBER!

ABSOLUTE POWER #3

**POWERLESS HEROES TEAM WITH ELITE AMAZONS
IN THE LATEST BLOCKBUSTER CHAPTER FROM
MARK WAID and DAN MORA!**



SEPTEMBER



Gotham is a distant memory.
Selina and I are on the dead
planet *Czarnia*...

...on a mission to retrieve
Amanda Waller's *Mother
Box*, a machine of untold
power from *Apokolips*.

HAPPY ENDINGS

CHIP ZDARSKY writer • MIKE HAJUTHAUNE penciller • ARIANO DI BENEDETTO inks
RUMULO PAJARDO JR. colorist • CLAYTON COWLES letterer • SALVADOR LARROCA & MATT HERMS cover artists
GUILLEM MARCH; DAVE JOHNSON; BELÉN ORTEGA; JÖELLE JONES variant cover artists
KATIE ROBERT editor • BATMAN created by BOB KANE with BILL FINGER

She never makes
it easy.

OUTNUMBERED.
OUTPOWERED.

THOUGH
NEITHER OF
YOU ACTUALLY
HAVE POWERS,
DO YOU?

UNLESS
YOU COUNT *HYPER-
SMUGNESS*.

THE TIMER IS
STILL COUNTING
DOWN.

I'LL CLEAR
THE WAY. GET THAT
BOX FREE.

ASK
NICELY.

PRETTY
PLEASE.

I've been to space
before, to other
planets...



...but never with *Selina*.

I try not to think of it, how far we are from home...



...how to separate for even a moment could become permanent.

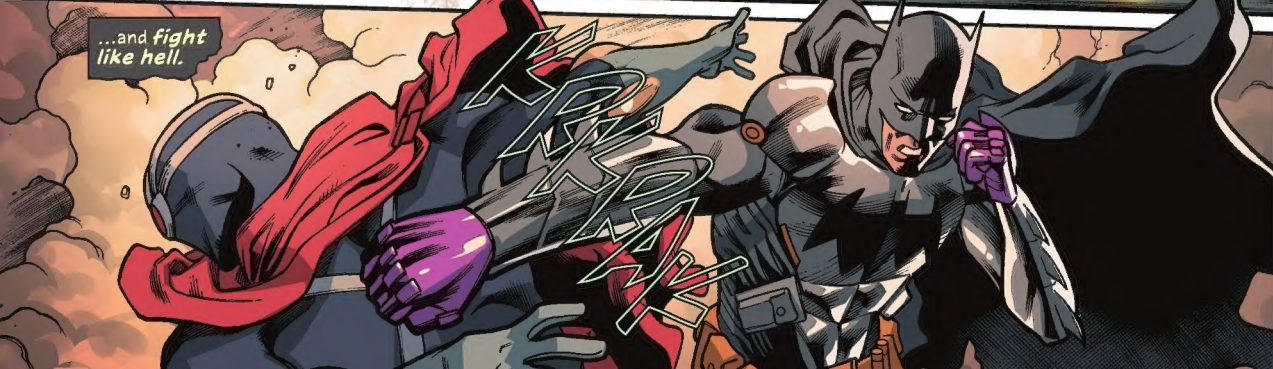
I'm used to knowing my surroundings, but out here...



...it's all mystery and danger.



So I do what I know how to do...



...and fight like hell.



NOT A LOT OF PLACES TO HIDE IN THERE, KITTEN...

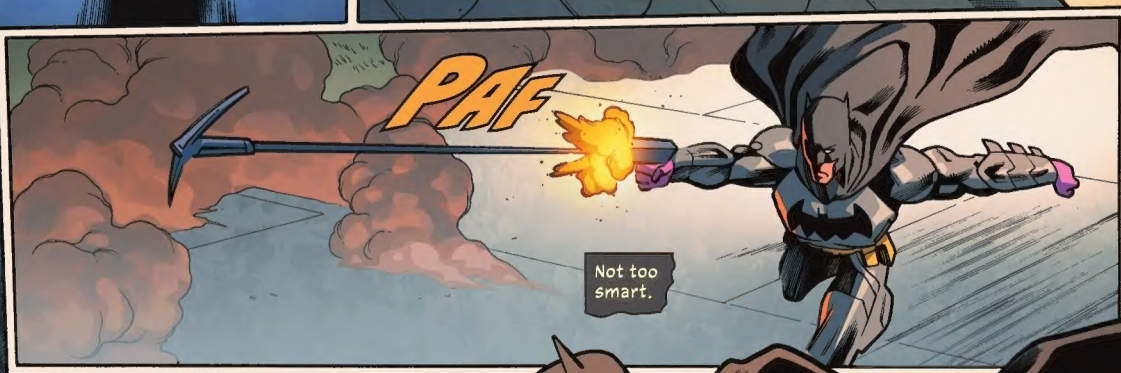
One by one, that's the way.



STAY STILL, YOU #@#!

BANG BANG BANG

Gunsmith.
Mercenary for hire.



PAF

Not too smart.



And very exposed.

HK!

But so
am I.

HRR!

IF YOU
GIVE UP NOW,
I PROMISE I
WON'T HURT
YOU...

...MUCH.

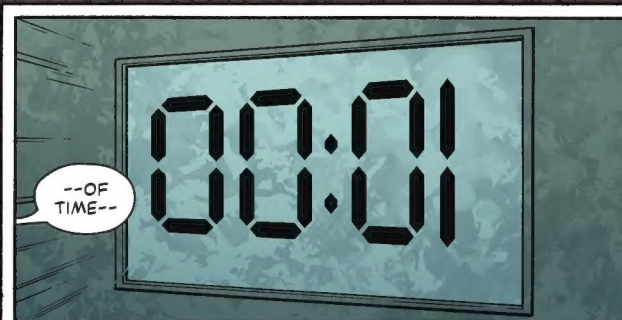
I'VE HEARD
OF YOU, **BLACK
ALICE**, YEAH?

ONE
AND THE SAME.

YOUR
THING IS
MAGIC.

AND THE
ONE THING I
KNOW ABOUT
MAGIC...

...IS THAT IT REQUIRES
CONCENTRATION.





No explosion?
No poison gas?

The tomb is...
unfolding?
What kind of
countdown
was--



--dammit! Deadeye is
fast, strong. I need
to throw him off...

TIME TO WRAP
THIS UP.

AMANDA DIDN'T SAY TO
KILL WHOEVER SHOWED
UP ON OKINAWA...



...BUT I
DON'T THINK
SHE'D MIND
TOO MUCH.

"AMANDA,"
NOT
"WALLER..."



...BECAUSE SHE'S
YOUR AUNT.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT,
ARCHIE?

AND YOU
DIDN'T EVEN
NOTICE WHAT YOU
WERE WALKING
THROUGH.

YOUR
FAMILY.
STOLEN BY
WALLER...



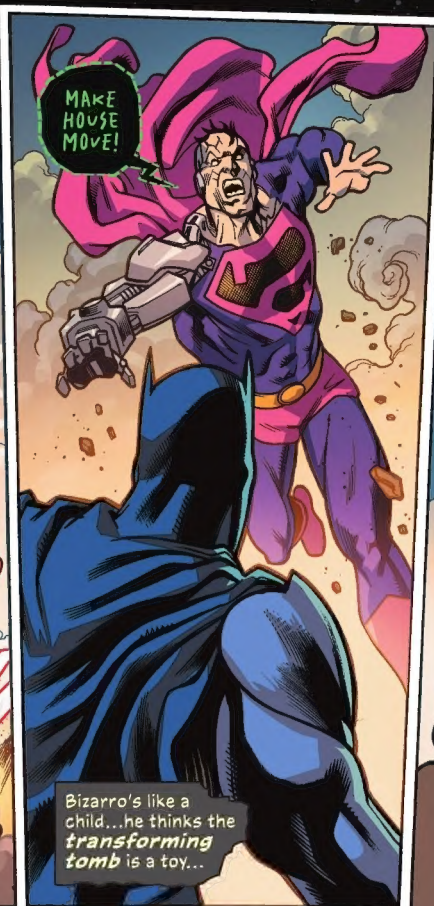
...INCLUDING
YOUR
MOTHER.

I...
WHAT?

SHE
WOULDN'T...

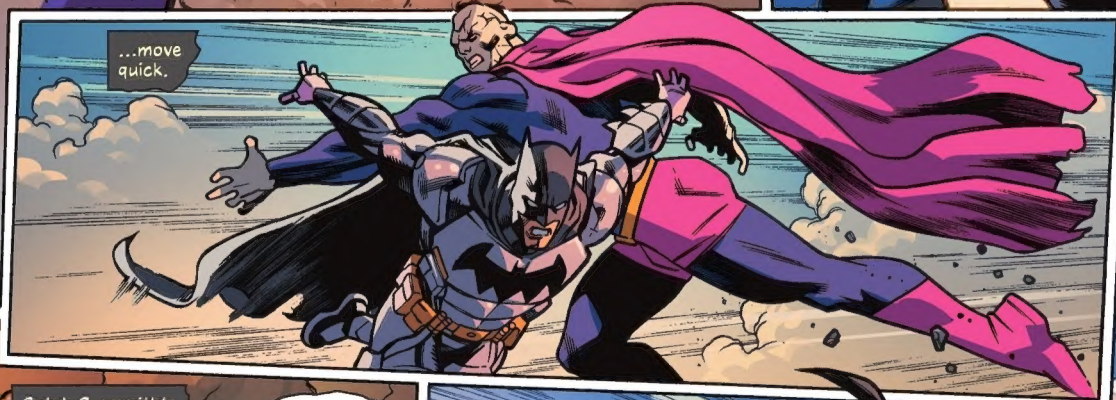


HOUSE
NO MOVE!



MAKE
HOUSE
MOVE!

Bizarro's like a
child...he thinks the
transforming
tomb is a toy...



...move
quick.



Catch Gunsmith's
eye, while he's
dazed.

HRR...
THINK YOU'RE
SO DAMNED
TOUGH...

AIM FOR
YOUR **FACE**
THIS TIME, YOU
#\$@%...



BANG BANG BANG

Get him where
you want him
to be--



BANG
BANG
BANG

HRRR...
SHOOT-Y
MAN...

TING

TING

TING



...THINK BIZARRO
TARGET?

N-NO!
IT WAS AN
ACCIDENT--

It'll only buy
me seconds.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT ALL
THAT WAS...

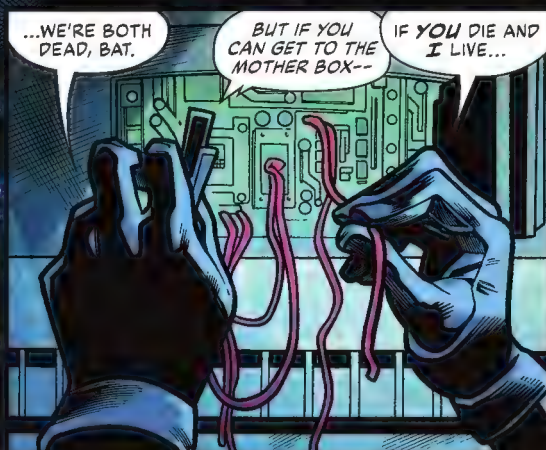


...BUT
I THINK
I'M CLOSE TO
UNLOCKING
THE BOX!

KEEP AT
IT. I'VE GOT
A PLAN TO
DEAL WITH
THESE
GUYS.



The force-field
is meant to protect
what's inside...





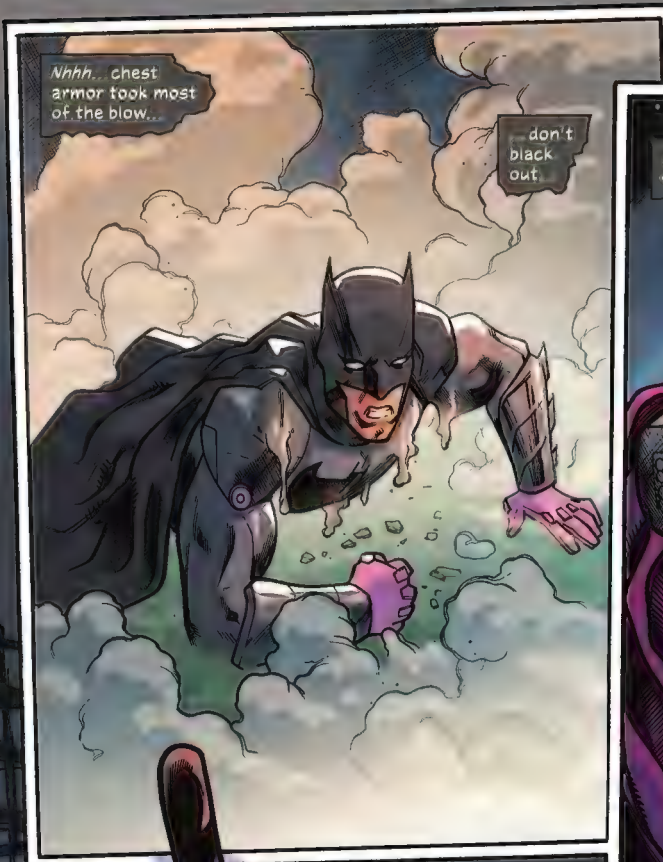
Feedback has blown
the force-field...

...so I need to
survive just a
little bit longer.

A one-armed
Bizarro...

...is still
incredibly
dange--





Nhhh... chest armor took most of the blow...

...don't black out.



...remember, you're on Czarnia...

OH MY GOD--



...the planet killed by its last son, *Lobo*...

WHAT THE #@\$%...





with carnivorous
flying scorpions.



#\$@%
THIS! I'M OUT
OF HERE!



CAT!
GET YOUR MASK
BACK ON!

I'M SO
CLOSE!

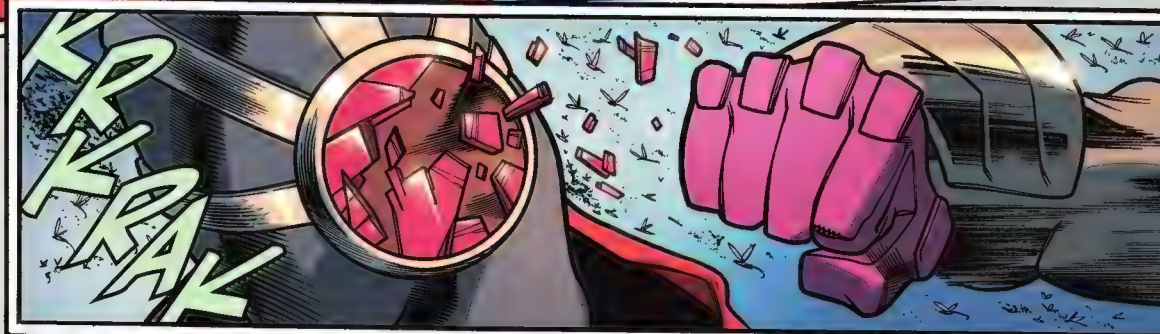
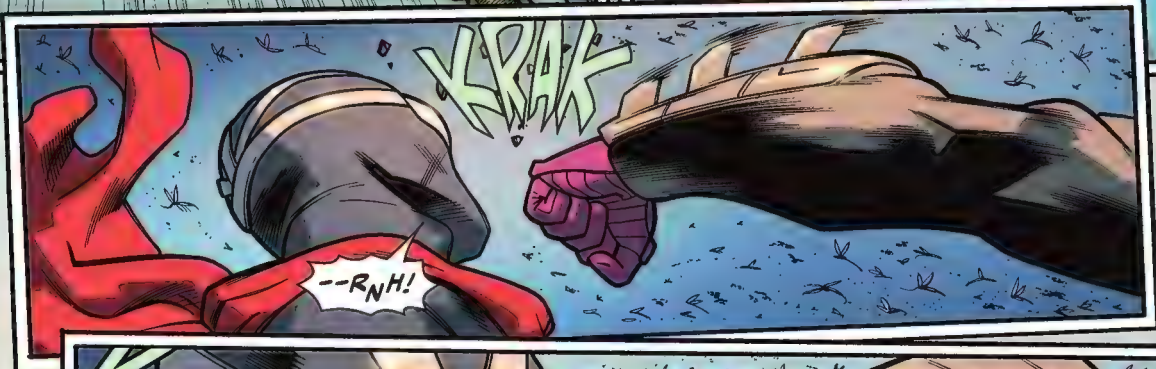


ONE MORE
MINUTE!

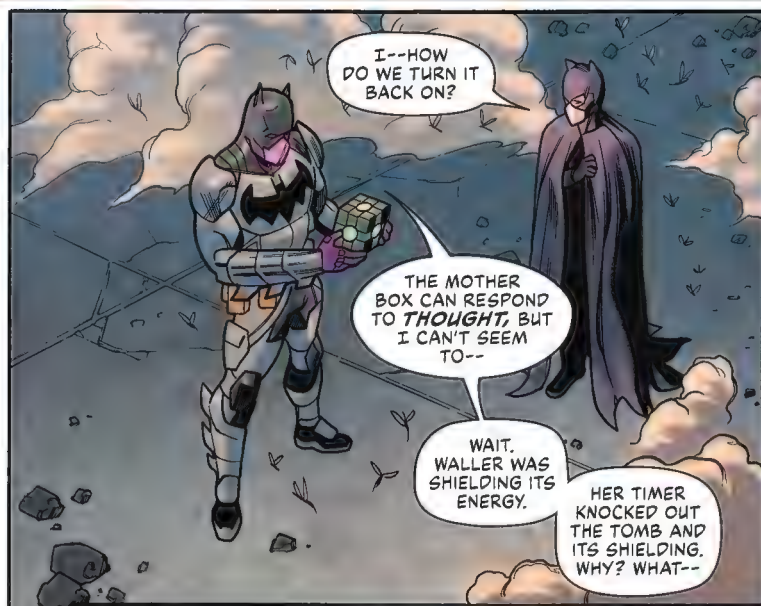
MOM...
I'LL BRING YOU
BACK, I--



--THE
HELL?!







I--HOW DO WE TURN IT BACK ON?

THE MOTHER BOX CAN RESPOND TO *THOUGHT*, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO--

WAIT. WALLER WAS SHIELDING ITS ENERGY.

HER TIMER KNOCKED OUT THE TOMB AND ITS SHIELDING. WHY? WHAT--



NO.

The air chills.



Even the scorpions know to fear

WHAT IS IT? WHAT--

OH GOD... WHAT WERE THOSE...



DAMMIT, BAT! WHAT'S GOING ON?

...JUST WANNA GO HOME... JUST--

If *Waller* was to lose the Mother Box, no one was to have it.

Everyone would die and it would go *home*.

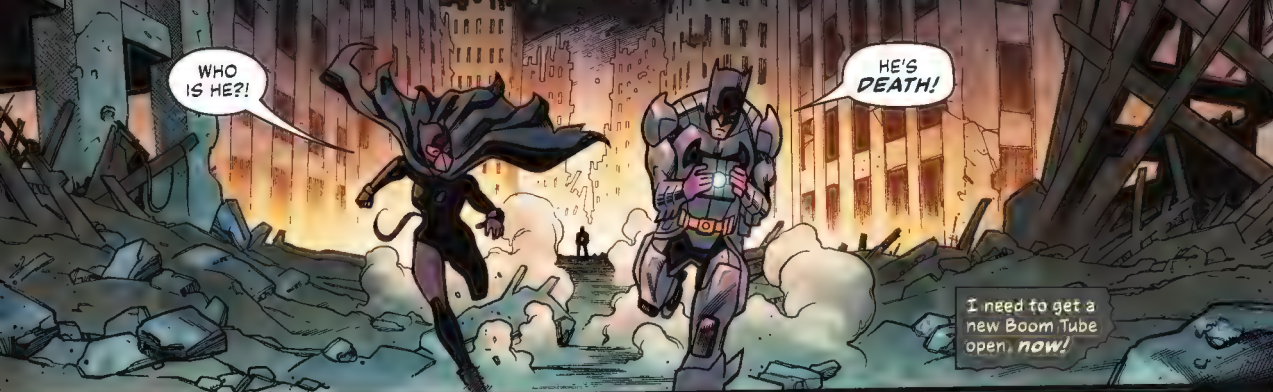


--JUST--

It would become a *beacon*...

RUN, SELINA.





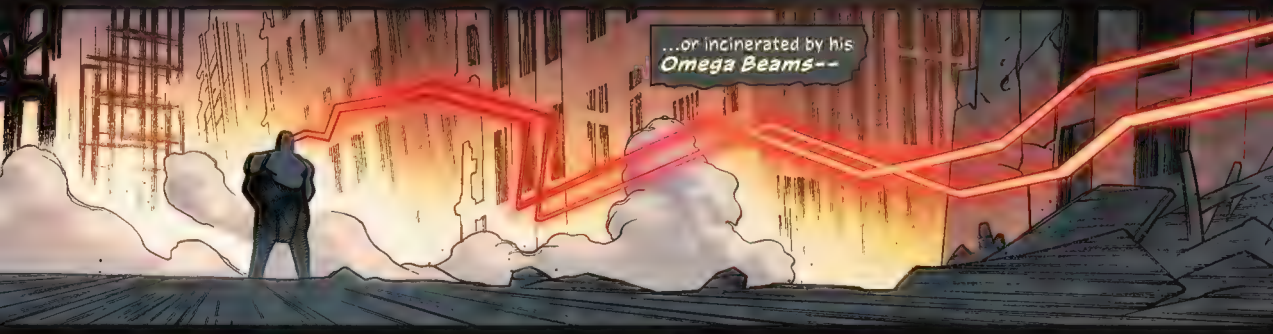
WHO IS HE?!

HE'S DEATH!

I need to get a new Boom Tube open, *now*!



Focus! If you do this wrong you could end up transported into even more danger than before--



...or incinerated by his Omega Beams--



NOT TODAY.



NOT WHEN I'VE FINALLY--

chk
Sweee--





*SEE BATMAN
#79! --KATIE



AMANDA WALLER HAS TAKEN OUR PLANET.

WE NEED TO TAKE IT **BACK**. BUT ALL MY HEART WANTS RIGHT NOW...



...IS THE CALM. I KNOW.

BUT THE **STORM** WAITS...



...AND YOU'RE THE %\$#@%\$ BATMAN.



I DON'T KNOW IF WE'LL EVER GET A HAPPY ENDING, BRUCE. I DON'T THINK ANYONE EVER REALLY DOES.



BUT WE'LL GRAB OUR **MOMENTS** WHEN WE CAN.



WE CAN--

THE RESORT SHOULD BE THREE MILES SOUTH. WE CAN ARRANGE TRAVEL BACK FROM THERE.

BRUCE...



WE ALMOST **DIED**, A MILLION MILES FROM HOME.

FEEL WHAT YOU NEED TO FEEL.

CAT, I JUST...



...I NEED A **MOMENT**.



THEN
LET'S GRAB
ONE, BAT.

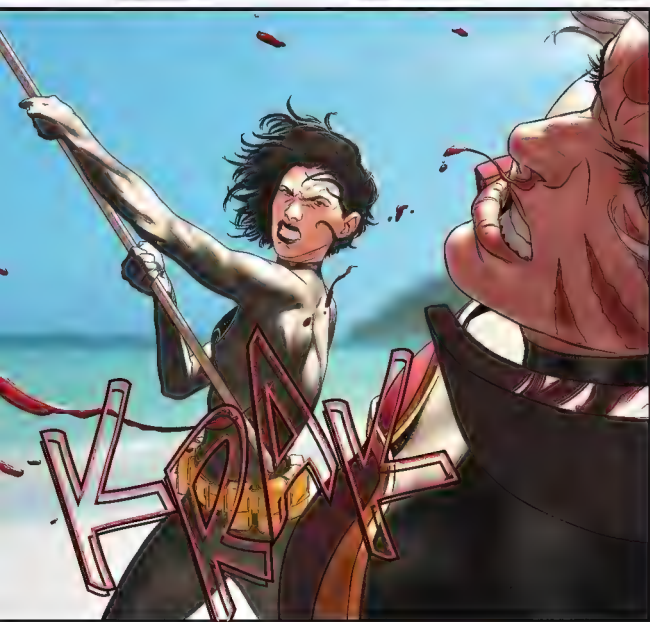
ON OUR
WAY BACK
INTO THE
STORM.

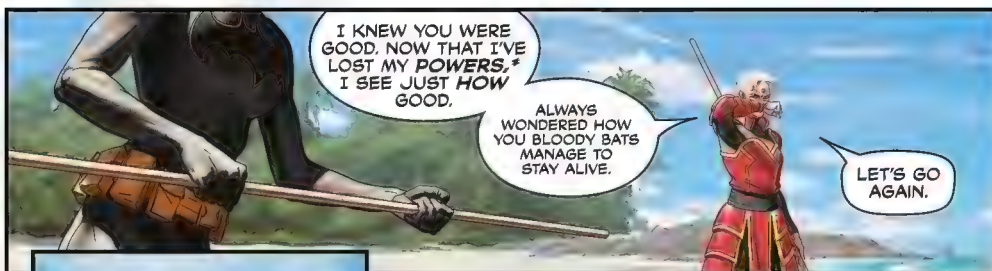
**BATMAN'S MOTHER BOX
MISSION CONTINUES IN
ABSOLUTE POWER #3
AND BEYOND INTO THE
GRAND FINALE!**

"EMOTIONALLY COMPROMISED"

KELLY THOMPSON writer • MATTIA DE IULIO art & colors
CLAYTON COWLES letters • KATIE KUBERT editor

THE MYSCIRA.





I KNEW YOU WERE GOOD. NOW THAT I'VE LOST MY **POWERS**,* I SEE JUST **HOW** GOOD.

ALWAYS WONDERED HOW YOU BLOODY BATS MANAGE TO STAY ALIVE.

LET'S GO AGAIN.

*SEE ABSOLUTE POWER #1!



YRAK



CANARY, I ASSUME YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THE BIRDS OF PREY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED ON THIS ISLAND WERE IT NOT AN **EMERGENCY** OF THE MOST DIRE SORT...

...THE BIRDS OF PREY AND THE AMAZONS ARE NO LONGER FRIENDS.*

*SEE BIRDS OF PREY: MEGADEATH!

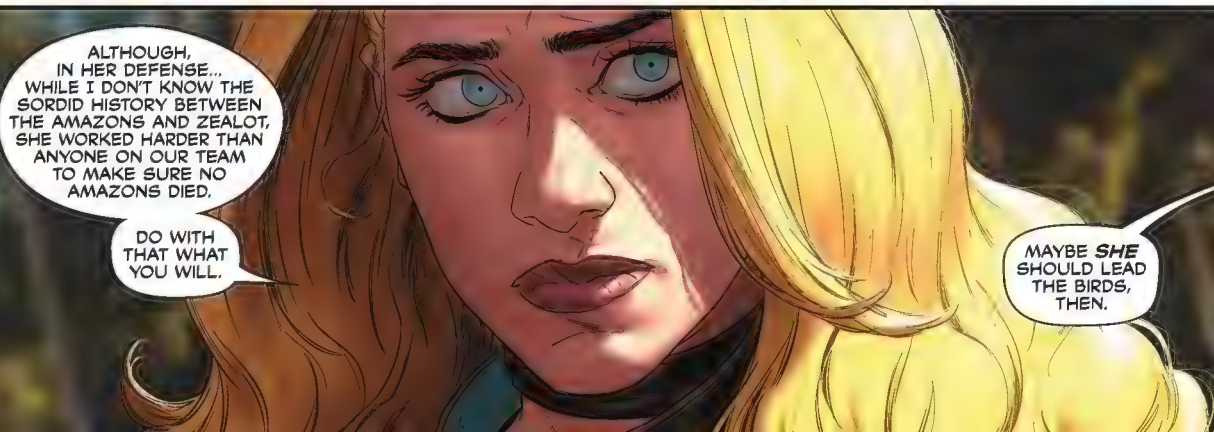


I UNDERSTAND, NUBIA. WE'LL LEAVE AS SOON AS NIGHTWING GIVES THE COMMAND.

I KNOW ALL THE HEROES ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU-- FOR SAFE PASSAGE IN YOUR AIRSPACE, FOR ALL OF IT.

BUT **WE'RE** THANKFUL YOU LET US ON THE ISLAND AT ALL. I KNOW THAT CAN'T HAVE BEEN EASY, ESPECIALLY WHERE ZEALOT WAS CONCERNED.

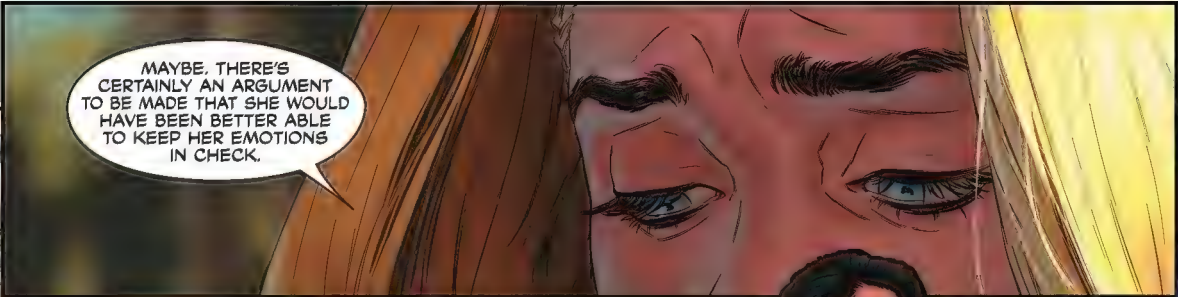
IT WAS NOT.



ALTHOUGH, IN HER DEFENSE... WHILE I DON'T KNOW THE SORDID HISTORY BETWEEN THE AMAZONS AND ZEALOT, SHE WORKED HARDER THAN ANYONE ON OUR TEAM TO MAKE SURE NO AMAZONS DIED.

DO WITH THAT WHAT YOU WILL.

MAYBE **SHE** SHOULD LEAD THE BIRDS, THEN.



MAYBE. THERE'S CERTAINLY AN ARGUMENT TO BE MADE THAT SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER ABLE TO KEEP HER EMOTIONS IN CHECK.



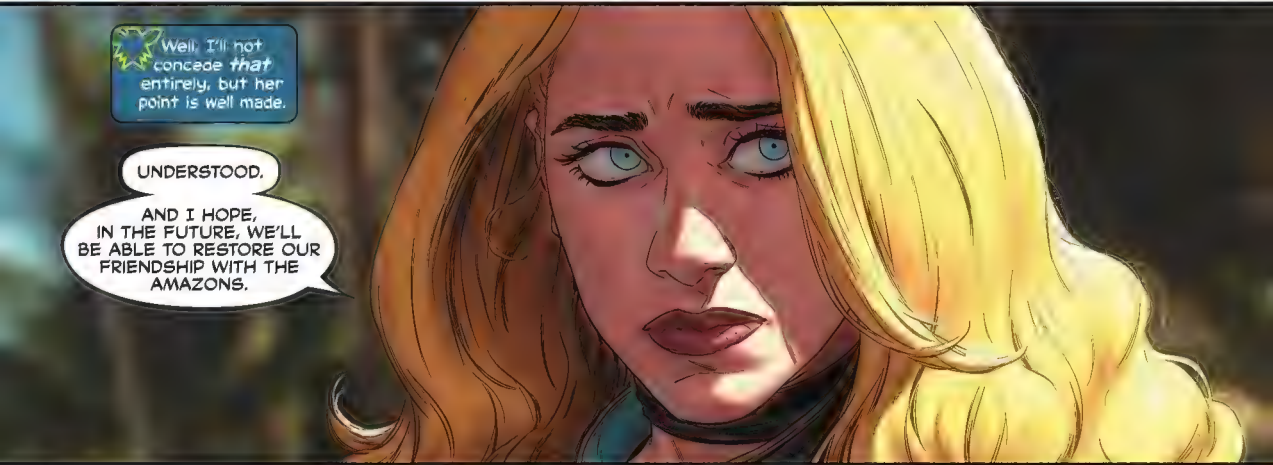
"YOU'RE BEING TOO HARD ON YOURSELF, CANARY. AS ANGRY AS WE ARE WITH YOU FOR HOW YOU WENT ABOUT IT...SIN IS YOUR SISTER.

"AND HER LIFE WAS AT STAKE."



YES. I GUESS I HOPED AMAZONS, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT.

IT'S THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE ALL STILL BREATHING.



Well, I'll not concede *that* entirely, but her point is well made.

UNDERSTOOD.

AND I HOPE, IN THE FUTURE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO RESTORE OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH THE AMAZONS.



WE SHALL SEE.

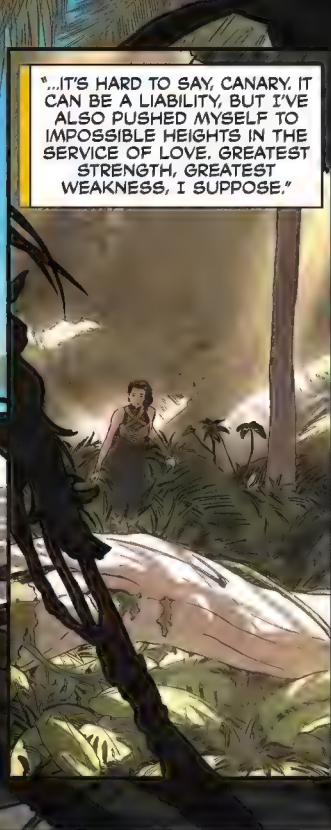


NUBIA...DO
YOU REALLY
BELIEVE
THAT?

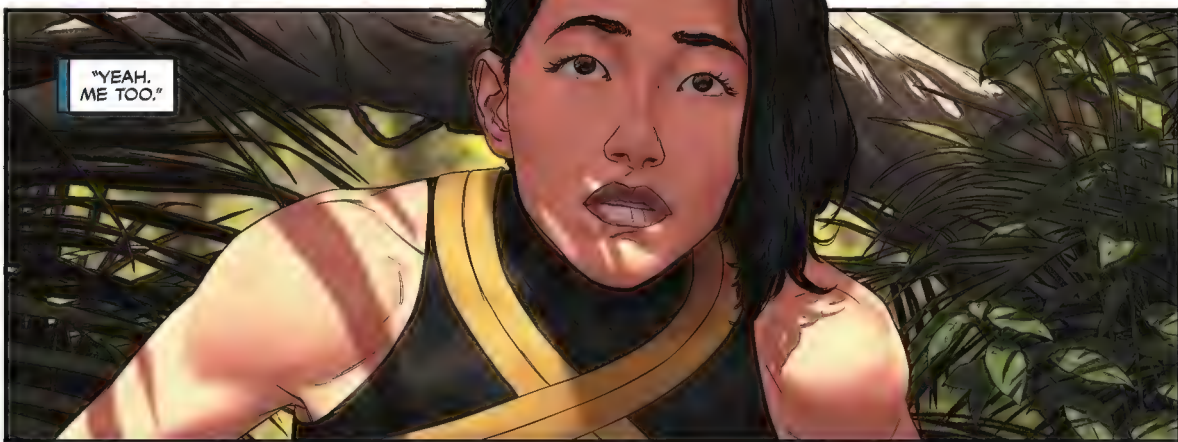
BELIEVE
WHAT?



"BELIEVE THAT
ZEALOT WOULD
HAVE BEEN A
BETTER LEADER
BECAUSE I WAS
EMOTIONALLY
COMPROMISED?"



"...IT'S HARD TO SAY, CANARY. IT
CAN BE A LIABILITY, BUT I'VE
ALSO PUSHED MYSELF TO
IMPOSSIBLE HEIGHTS IN THE
SERVICE OF LOVE. GREATEST
STRENGTH, GREATEST
WEAKNESS, I SUPPOSE."



"YEAH.
ME TOO."



MEGAERA...DO
YOU FEEL THIS?
DO YOU KNOW
THIS PLACE?

YES.
THIS IS ONE OF
MINE.



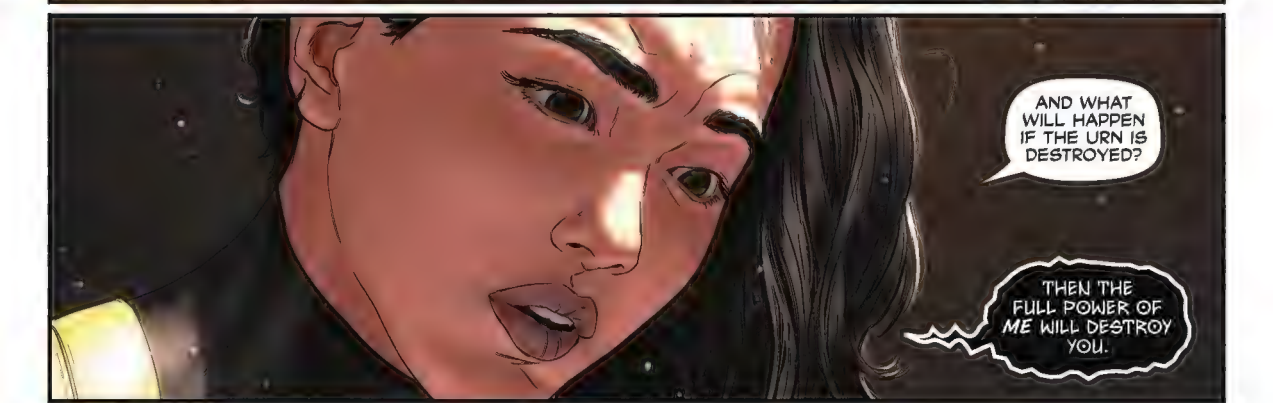
DO YOU
THINK THE URN
IS HERE? THE ONE
THAT SWALLOWED UP
SO MUCH OF YOU...
AND MAYBE SOME
OF ME?

NO. THE
AMAZONS
WOULD NEVER PUT
IT SOMEWHERE SO
REMOTE AND EXPOSED.
I SUSPECT IT'S
UNDER HEAVY
GUARD.



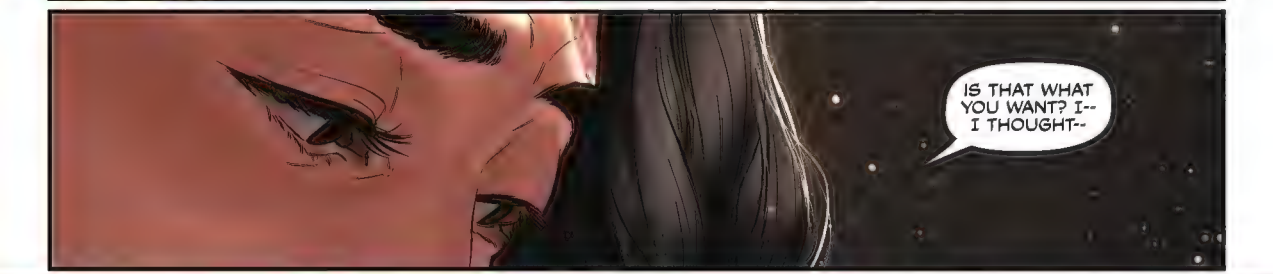
BECAUSE
THEY FEAR
US IF IT'S
OPENED?

I DO
NOT BELIEVE
IT CAN BE OPENED.
BUT DESTROYED?
PERHAPS.

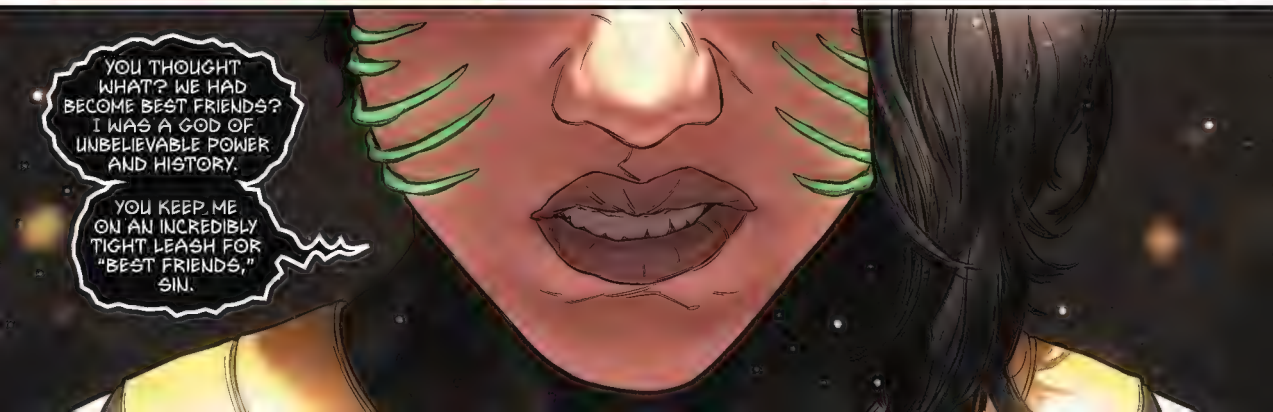


AND WHAT
WILL HAPPEN
IF THE URN IS
DESTROYED?

THEN THE
FULL POWER OF
ME WILL DESTROY
YOU.

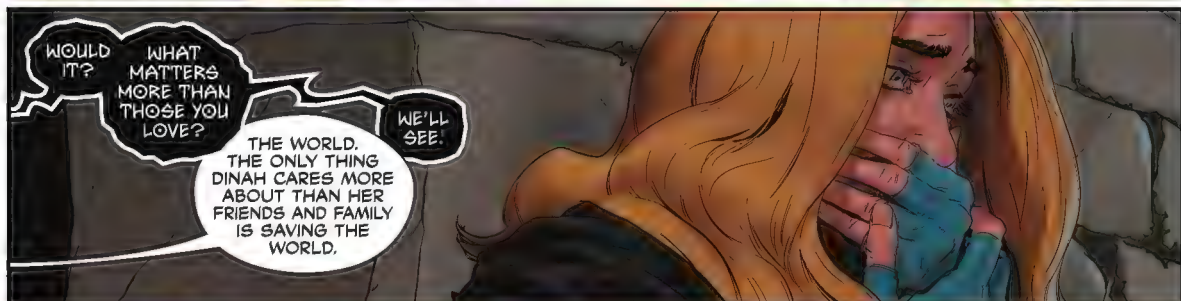
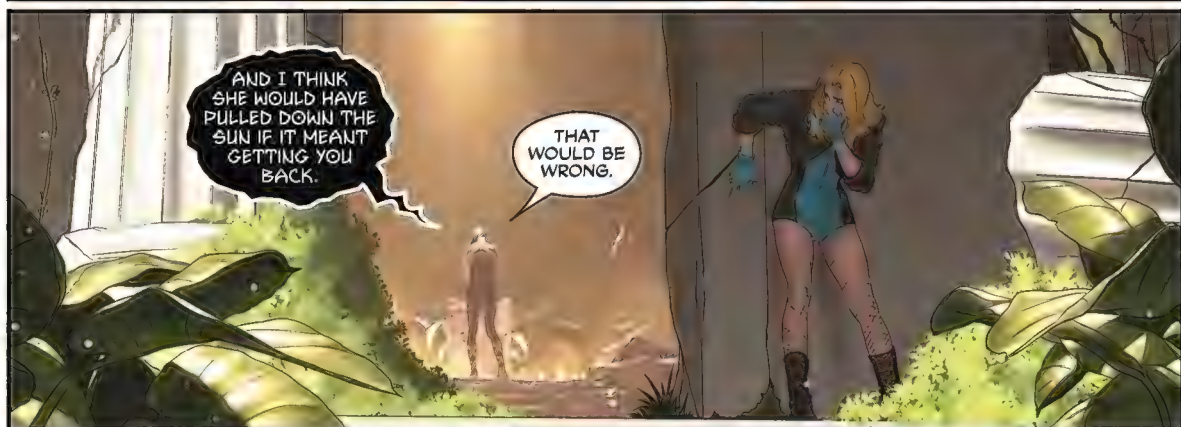
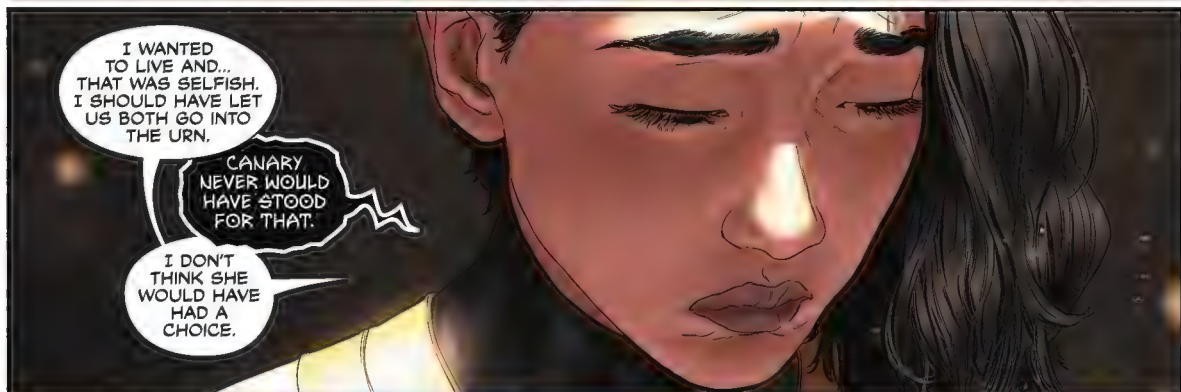
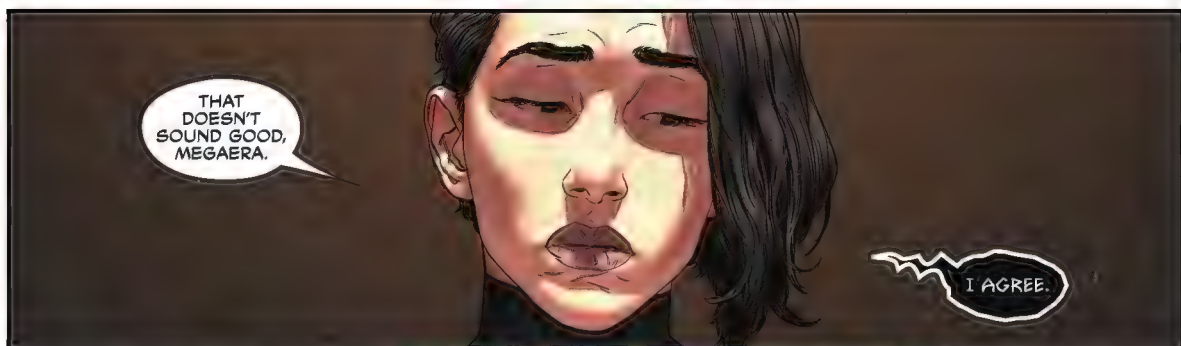


IS THAT WHAT
YOU WANT? I--
I THOUGHT--

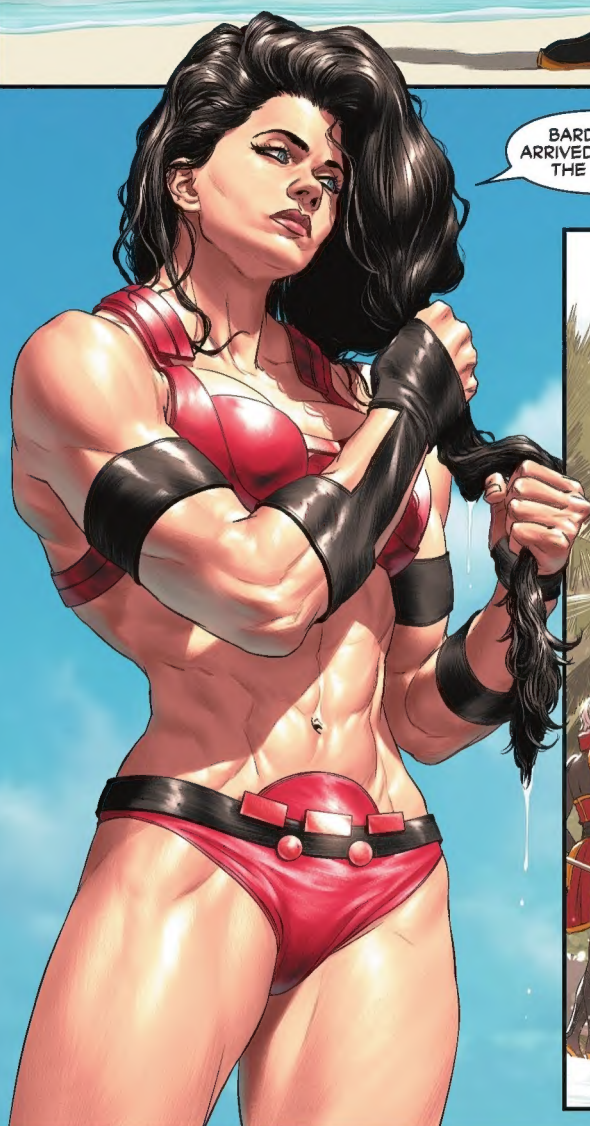


YOU THOUGHT
WHAT? WE HAD
BECOME BEST FRIENDS?
I WAS A GOD OF
UNBELIEVABLE POWER
AND HISTORY.

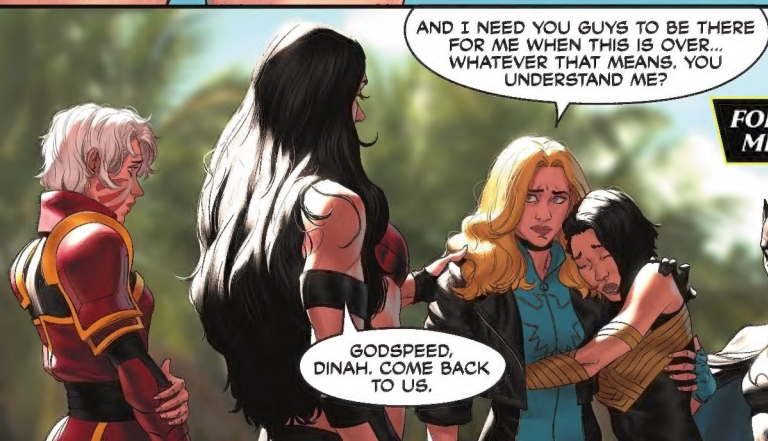
YOU KEEP ME
ON AN INCREDIBLY
TIGHT LEASH FOR
"BEST FRIENDS,"
SIN.







BARDA HAS ARRIVED. WHAT IS THE PLAN?



FOLLOW BLACK CANARY'S SOLO MISSION IN GREEN ARROW #16!

AND JOIN ALL THE BIRDS ON THEIR ALL-NEW MISSION IN BIRDS OF PREY #14!

CONTINUED IN ABSOLUTE POWER #3!

LAST STAND ON PARADISE ISLAND!

**JON KENT FIGHTS BACK AS
ABSOLUTE
POWER
CONTINUES**

**SEPTEMBER:
ABSOLUTE POWER #3**

**ABSOLUTE POWER:
TASK FORCE VII #6**

**ABSOLUTE POWER:
SUPER SON #1**

**ABSOLUTE POWER:
TASK FORCE VII #7**

**ABSOLUTE POWER:
ORIGINS #3**

**TIE-INS:
BATMAN #152**

GREEN LANTERN #15

SUPERMAN #18

WONDER WOMAN #13

GREEN ARROW #16



ABSOLUTE POWER #3

**POWERLESS HEROES TEAM WITH ELITE AMAZONS
IN THE LATEST BLOCKBUSTER CHAPTER FROM
MARK WAID and DAN MORA!**

SEPTEMBER



DON'T MISS THE FATEFUL FINALE IN OCTOBER!

BATMAN

THE BARBARIAN

INTERVIEW WITH GREG SMALLWOOD

In a world where unspeakable beasts slither through silent temples, only one man has the strength of will and brute force to protect the people...the fearsome, blade-wielding Batman. But when an all-seeing Oracle warns him of a shadow creeping across the land, he will have to contend with foes that can't be dispatched by sword alone. DC Nation sat down with Eisner Award-winning artist Greg Smallwood to discuss both writing and illustrating this Elseworlds epic.

What does it mean to be contributing to the relaunch of the iconic Elseworlds line?

Well, the comic obviously draws inspiration from those classic Elseworlds tales I grew up with. It's a unique thrill to be able to play in the DC sandbox with characters like Batman while also having the freedom to take them into entirely new realms and situations. That blend of deep lore and imaginative exploration is what makes Elseworlds so exciting.

What has it been like to not only draw this story, but write it as well?

Writing and drawing this story has been a blast. My previous DC project, *The Human Target*, was a perfect match for my artistic style, as its noir aesthetic aligned with my sensibilities.

However, when it comes to sword and sorcery, I knew that not every aspect of the genre would naturally gel with me as an artist or visual storyteller. What the writing allows me to do is find that balance between the genre's conventions and my own little idiosyncrasies.

Have you always been a fan of this kind of rugged sword-and-sorcery world, and why do you think it works well for Batman?

I've been a huge fan of sword and sorcery ever since I was a teen, but the big appeal for me is simply the visual aesthetics of the genre. When I was a kid, sword-and-sorcery paperbacks and VHS boxes would always catch my eye; the amazing covers promised grand epics with spellbinding visuals and

captivating characters. My goal with *Batman the Barbarian* is to deliver on that promise.

Can you tease fans with your favorite scene from the first issue?

We've seen Batman's origin countless times, but it was really fun to put my own spin on it. I won't say any more than that.

Can you describe this series in five words?

Visceral, raw, and action-packed.



**DON'T MISS
BATMAN THE
BARBARIAN #1,
ON SALE THIS SEPTEMBER!**



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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

